



"Ohio First DXCC Field Checking Club"

The NODXA RAG

NO8DX - Special Event Callsign
W8DXA - NODXA Repeater 147.360
K8MR - PacketCluster 144.91 & 145.57

Web-site: <http://www.papays.com/nodxa.html>

Newsletter: wd8iou@adelphia.net

Northern Ohio DX Association
P.O. Box 450783
Westlake, Ohio
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September 2004

Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,

Over the past month there was another announcement of a major DXpedition to take place during early 2005. The "Microlite Penguins DXpedition Team" will activate the rare French island Kerguelen (FT/X). This southern African island located in the Antarctic territories is ranked 13th as the most wanted country worldwide (10th in the U.S.A. overall and 8th eastern U.S.A.). Kerguelen Island also has an IOTA number of AF-048.

A multi-national team of 12 operators are expected to activate Kerguelen Island between March 15th and April 2nd of 2005. This is the same group that activated the islands of South Georgia (VP8GEO) and South Sandwich (VP8THU) in 2004. This group (Microlite), also believes in minimal power and antenna operations. James Brooks, 9V1YC, is the DXpedition's Team Leader. Currently there are no other details available, but a press release is forthcoming in

the coming week.

However, this DXpedition is funded entirely by the 12 member team and has received a generous and exclusive grant by the Northern California DX Foundation. There are no other clubs, foundations, individuals, manufacturers or QSL sponsors. This sounds like another excellent operation, and I am sure there will be another video made by James, 9V1YC.

There will be a program at the October NODXA meeting, so you may want to attend. The club will be showing a video, provided by Dwaine, K8ME, on some Ten-Tec radio.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

For Sale

Cushcraft Boomer 26B2 antenna, 26VPK stacking kit, and PD-2 power divider for \$175. Please call Janeen Hire, W8ZET, at (419) 529-3332.

Minutes of the September 13th, 2004 NODXA Meeting

Tedd KB8NW called the meeting to order at 7:33PM which was held at Gourmet Deli and Restaurant in Strongsville, Ohio, and was followed by the around the room introductions by the 22 members and guests in attendance.

The treasurer Mary N8DMM reports a balance of \$Ka-Ching! and reminds the members to pay your dues for 2004.

A discussion on the packet cluster was opened by Tedd KB8NW.

Ray, W8BIN, reported that the 2 meter repeater is working fine.

Tedd, KB8NW, then opened a discussion on the 2 meter repeater and its usage (whether it was an open or a closed type).

The Peter 1 DX-pedition group sent a thank you E-mail to the club for our donation and that our logo is now on DXpedition's Web page (www.peterone.com) as informed to us by Tedd KB8NW.

A discussion on the DXCC Log Book of the World was opened by Tedd KB8NW.

Dwaine K8ME reported on the NODXA Awards.

John K8YSE informed us on John Marhefka W8BE.

Glen AF8C won the 50/50 raffle. His share was \$19.00.

The meeting was closed at 8:20PM by Tedd KB8NW.

Following the meeting a video on the Comoros Island D68C was shown.

Submitted by Secretary: Ron K8VJG

Simple, Effective, and Inexpensive Low Band Antennas for DX

Jim Koshmider, K8OZ

Most of the DXers I talk with are not too enthusiastic about the expected propagation con-

ditions during the next three years. Based on a recent ARRL propagation report, the current solar cycle should hit rock bottom "...around the end of 2006 and the start of 2007."(1) [Please see the numbered notes below.] At the low end of the previous cycle, the daily solar flux readings were lower than "100" from early in April of 1994, until finally rising above 100 for about one day in November of 1996.(2) During the summer of 1996, it appears the daily solar flux levels were as low as, or lower than 60.(3) The Solar Flux level did not reach 100 again until late August or early September of 1997.(4)

If predictions for the next three years are to be based on recurring solar cycles, we could find ourselves in a situation like we experienced in the mid 1990s real soon! These conditions could hinder our DXing possibilities until the fall of 2007, or later. During this period, the use of the 10, 12, and 15 meter bands for global communications (without satellites, etc.) will become virtually useless. Twenty meters will also be of marginal DX value. [Who knows what to expect on six meters...?]

If we are to remain "true-to-form" active DXers, we will soon find ourselves on 30, 40, 80, and 160 meters. Many hams are reluctant to try these bands because of the perceived need for big antennas. Antennas for these bands do not necessarily need to be "full-sized," nor a wavelength or more above the ground to be effective for DX. A 28 foot tall ground-mounted vertical wire (or mast) can be used to put out a decent signal on 160 meters, with reasonable gain (around 1.6 dBi) and a take-off angle of about 25 degrees. (5) If low angle signals can be generated from short vertical antennas on 160 meters, it should be a sure thing on the 30, 40, and 80 meter bands!

There are several other inexpensive DX antennas for the low bands – most of which are "wire" antennas, and can be found in antenna books or on the web. If you have not tried a Double Magnetic Slot or a Bobtail Curtain (or even a Half Bobtail) antenna on the low bands, you are missing some great DX opportunities.

Other popular antennas which work well on

the low bands include the Windom and various sizes and shapes of loop antennas. Most of these antennas require more space than simple verticals, but if you have the room for these more expansive antennas, I think you will be happy with the results they can produce.

Another consideration is that of separate receive antennas. Some of the wire antennas mentioned above are quite effective in discriminating against QRN. Even a 40 meter dipole 10 feet off the ground can be an effective low noise "receive" antenna for 160 meters. For those who insist on specially designed receive antennas (with directional, and noise-reduction capabilities), you may need to build some EWE, Beverage, Flag, or Pennant antennas. While these antennas are easy and inexpensive to build, some may require additional amplifiers to boost the signal strength up to a useful receive level. These small but effective amplifiers may be found in antenna books, in ham radio magazine articles, or in ham radio magazine ads.

If you are not equipped with good low band antennas, give some of these ideas a try. They are inexpensive and easy to build! You may need to experiment a little to get the antennas tuned properly, and to get them to fit into the dimensions of your QTH. But that's one of the great things about ham radio – building things that we can use on the air!

Have fun with your antenna projects! I'll look forward to working you on the low bands!

Note 1: From ARRL Propagation Forecast Bulletin 33, August 13, 2004

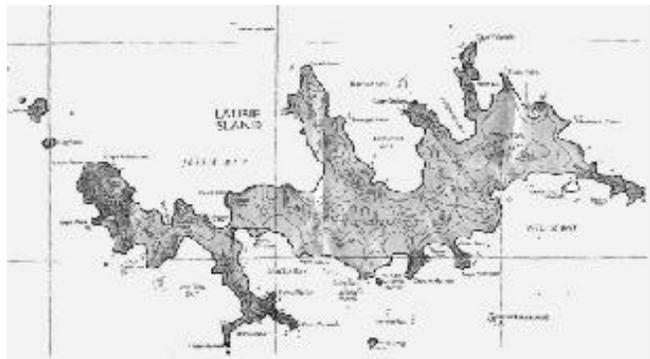
Notes 2, 3, and 4: Based on Daily Solar Flux graphics provided by Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory, W3DF, and QSL.net.

Note 5: Based on results I obtained using EZNEC software, published by Roy Lewallen, W7EL

AY1ZA – South Orkeny Island Dx-Pedition Jan 29 to Feb 22, 2004—Part 1

Horacio "Henry" Ledo – LU4DXU

South Orkeny archipelago is located near the north boundary of the Argentine Antarctica. It is composed of forty islands and islets, being one of the most important places Coronación Island at the west and Laurie Island at the east. On February 22nd, 1904, the centennial history of the Argentine Republic in the Antarctica has begun precisely in the Laurie Island due to the permanent occupation of the White Continent by our country and by humanity.



LAURIE ISLAND

In 1904, a continuous scientific activity started in the magnetic and meteorological observatory located in the South Orkeny. Scientific studies on meteorology are particularly interesting because streams of polar air interact here, affecting the weather conditions of all the South Hemisphere. Thus, weather forecast is performed for the Antarctic region. The earth's magnetic field is observed and measured in the Orkeny Base. The relevant data obtained is transferred to the World Geomagnetic Chart, used in sea and air navigation. Geological and geodesical studies along the Scotia Arch are also carried out. Due to a scientific agreement between Argentine and Italy, a seismological station participating on the Antarctic Seismological Net is working in the Orkeny Base since 1997. Research on glaciology and ice conditions, monitoring of penguin colonies, and fauna observation, among other activities, are also performed.

The first post office in the Antarctic, named "Orcadas del Sud", was founded on February 22nd, 1904, the same day the observatory was created. Therefore, one of the main requisites

for the sovereignty was full filled: the post as an essential juridical form to actively be in contact with the country central administration. In 1927, radiotelegraph communication started with the continent. Fifteen years later, a new post office called "Islas Orcadas del Sud", was inaugurated, rendering continuous services since then. This post office has turned into a Radio/Post Office in 1949.



Rigs and Antennas

One of my dreams was to be there in the Orkney Base, where many hams need the island for a new entity, so I started connecting with those people who could help me to go to the island. The first one was my neighbor, Admiral Mr. Hector Julio Alvarez who informed me the way to begin to contact the responsible people in charge of the trip to the Summer Antarctic Campaign.

I started talking about this voyage two year ago when I got in touch with Claudio Stanich operator of LU1ZA 2001/2002 and he said (... Henry you have to be here, this is a paradise and very good for ham activity..) and thinking that in 2004 the century at the Orcadas Base was coming in due time it was very nice to use a special call for the event, at last my trip to South Orkney Island was coordinated and the call was to be AY1ZA. Then I carried out all my body checking and waited until the Navy called me to departure.

On January 14th, Cristina my wife, helped me to carry out all my wood bags and the two tubes were the antenna was to be delivered to the air-

port, the day after my departure to Ushuaia. There I waited to aboard the icebreaker that took me to South Orkney Island.

I departed from Ezeiza at 08:00 local time and arrived to Ushuaia the most austral city of Argentina at mid-day where Navy personal were waiting and took me to the Air Naval Base as well as my wood-bags and the two tubes.

As soon as I installed in my room, Pupi LU8XP phoned me and that night we had a good dinner. The day after he showed me the very nice city where he lives and every day until the ship departure I moved with him from one place to another.

On Friday 23rd, I saw the icebreaker coming



Pupi LU8XP and his wife Luisa

along the Beagle channel and it made me feel better, knowing that in a few days I was on my way to South Orkney. Monday January 26th the ship left Ushuaia and started the 1500 km voyage through the strait of Drake.

My stop was Laurie Island located in the South Orkney Group, Lat. 60° 45' S Long. 44° 43' W. Fortunately, I had a quiet voyage when crossing the strait of Drake during three days of navigation and arriving January 29th evening and anchored in the Scotia Bay waiting for the helicopter to load the antennas, boxes etc.

When I finished my lunch, I started to install the 80 and 40 mts. dipoles, repair a multiband antenna installed in the base, which was used for 30, 17 and 12 mts., the four elements 20, 15 and 10 mts. were installed with the help of Navy boys because the weather was very cold, windy

NODXA Club Officials for 2004-2005

President - Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW (440-237-2816)
V. President - Dwaine Modock, K8ME (440-582-3462)
Secretary - Ron Borkey, K8VJG (440-237-6718)
Treasurer - Mary Michaelis, N8DMM (440-236-5426)
Newsletter Editor - David Autry, WD8IOU (440-238-0417)

As of March 2002
Current DXCC Entities Total is:

335

and snowy. As soon I put on the air the IC-751 A, the first qso was with LU9DO John, who answered my CQ call on 14.290. More than 100 entities were contacted on the bands and about 4.600 QSO's were made and I had the chance to talk to many old friends around the world, that I couldn't reach from Buenos Aires since a long time, due to very poor conditions.



View from the helicopter of the Icebreaker anchored in the Scotia Bay.

Although my objective was to double the score, unfortunately everybody was talking to the main land with their parents and communications took a long time. Remember that this is the only way to contact them; there are no telephones in the island. Sometimes I passed 15 hours without transmitting and time to time due to the bad propagation.

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, W8BIN, KB8NW, K8VJG, K8YSE, K8OZ, LU4DXU, and the *ARRL Letter*.

DXCC Dropping Annual List Deadline

ARRL Letter

The ARRL DX Century Club Program (DXCC) has announced that, effective immediately, there no longer will be a submission deadline for the DXCC Annual List.

"We have been working toward this end for several years," says ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L. In the past, he explains, September 30 has been the traditional cutoff date to compile entity totals for the DXCC Annual List, published in the DXCC Yearbook.

Moore says that in the past, DXCC participants have tended to collect their cards and submit them once a year to ensure the highest possible total for the listing. A major downside of the deadline system is that DXCC typically has received more than 25 percent of annual credit submissions during September. That, in turn, created a huge increase in workload and lengthened processing time.

Under the deadline-free system, complete lists on the ARRL Web site will replace the lists of DXCC standings that customarily have appeared in the DXCC Yearbook. The new Web-based lists should be on-line early in the first quarter of 2005--about the time the DXCC Yearbook typically publishes. After an initial posting, DXCC will regularly update the Web lists. These listings also will include the standings of all DXCC members, not just those who made a submission in the previous year, as had been the practice.

ARRL will publish a scaled-down version of the DXCC Yearbook that will contain highlights of the standings, along with other features. For more information on the DXCC program, visit the DXCC Web page.



NODXA Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at the **Gourme Family Restaurant** at 15315 Pearl Road (Rt. 42) just west of Interstate 71 and south of Rt. 82 in Strongsville at 7:30 PM. Come early and have dinner and meet your fellow DXers and enter the 50/50 raffle.

NODXA Application and Renewal Form

The Northern Ohio DX Association is a non-profit organization with a primary interest in DXing. We encourage all DXers to join our group and share the interest and fun of DXing. Please complete the application below and send along your appropriate dues or renewal to:

NODXA, P.O. Box 450783, Westlake, Ohio 44145

First Time Membership/Renewal (U.S.)	\$12.00
Foreign Membership (outside U.S.)	\$22.00
*Foreign Membership (no printed newsletter) (but w/Web access for newsletter)	\$12.00

Name _____ Callsign _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Prov. _____

Country _____ ZIP _____

E-mail _____

ARRL Member? Exp. Date _____ DXCC Member?

Special Interest _____

Newsletter circulation: Pete Michaelis **N8TR**, Mary Michaelis **N8DMM**, and "Radio Ray" **W8BIN**

**Dated Material
Please Rush**



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